Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting

December 11, 2023

Glenn Olds Hall, USGS Alaska Science Center

https://alaskashorebirdgroup.com/

Housekeeping

- Please sign-in
- In case of an Emergency – meet on northwest end of the building

- Snacks provided and money donations appreciated
- Don’t forget to pay Sarah H. for lunch!

- Flyways Film is available via Microsoft Teams

ASG Executive Committee

Chairperson – Laura McDuffie (USGS)
Secretary – Arin Underwood (ADF&G)

Members:
Mary Anne Bishop (PWSSS) – **vacancy**
Emily Weiser (USGS) – **vacancy**
Jenell Larsen Tempel (ADF&G)
Lindsay Hermanns (Virginia Tech) – **vacancy**
Sarah Hoepfner (WCS)

Permanent Member:
Rick Lanctot (USFWS)

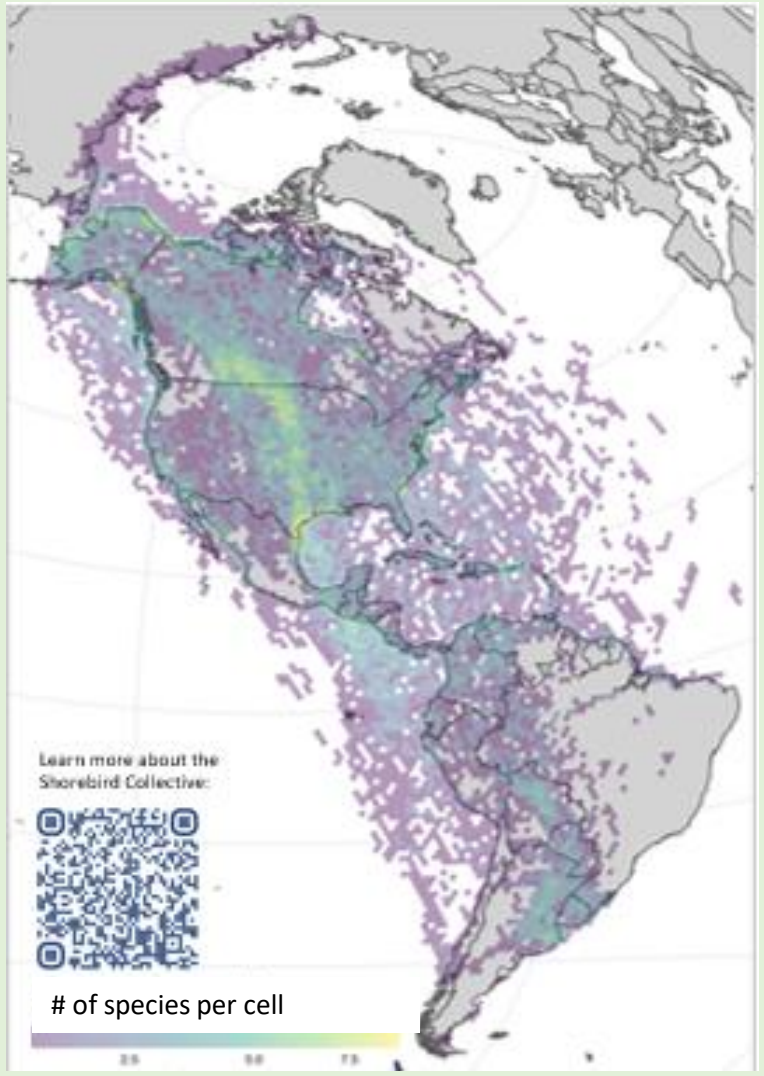
Shorebird Activities of Interest

8:05am – 8:45am (3-minute lightning updates)

- Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective (*Rick Lanctot)*
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's Shorebird Working Group (*Rick Lanctot)*
- Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative (*River Gates)*
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting 2024 (*River Gates*)
- Midcontinental Shorebird Conservation Initiative (*Benoit Laliberte)*
- Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (*Erin Cooper)*
- Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival *(Erin Cooper)*
- International Wader Study Group meeting 2023 (*Dan Ruthrauff*)
- Road to Recovery workshop (*Katie Christie)*
- Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival (*Melanie Dufour)*

Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective

Autumn-Lynn Harrison, Candace Stenzel, Allie Anderson
Advisory Group: 16 members, chaired by Rick Lanctot



Objectives

1. Provide hemispheric-scale analyses that can be down-scaled to identify important sites and gaps in our knowledge.

2. Provide scientific support to regional initiatives focused on shorebird conservation in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.

3. Provide scientific support to conservation initiatives. These may include on-the-ground conservation projects, education, and outreach initiatives, and/or analyses needed for management decision-making.

Contributions from >50 contributors on 37 species, including data from nearly 3,000 individual birds

Working with Cornell Lab to combine eBird data with tracking data

See https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/shorebird-collective to contribute your data or to request tracking data to support your work

Funded by the Knobloch Family Foundation

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's Shorebird Working Group

Rick Lanctot on behalf of the SWG

- Elected David Li, Singapore National Park Program, new Chair as of March 2023
- Formed Core team of 11 members, representatives from throughout the flyway
- Hold bi-monthly meetings to move agenda forward
- Develop and implement biennial work plan
  - Support monitoring of migratory shorebirds
  - Support conservation of shorebird species and their habitats
  - Support capacity building and promote science for shorebird conservation and management
  - Enhance communication relating to shorebird conservation
- Hold on-line webinar series to focus on and resolve conservation issues
  - Color marking protocol
  - Nordmann's Greenshank Conservation
  - Far Eastern Curlew Conservation

  Upcoming: Dunlin / Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation
  Shorebird monitoring and status update
  Collaborative migration ecology studies
- Announce small grants (up to $5000) available annually

Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative

PACIFIC SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Photo: Ronan Donovan/ Audubon Photography Awards

Audubon

The Initiative's Priorities

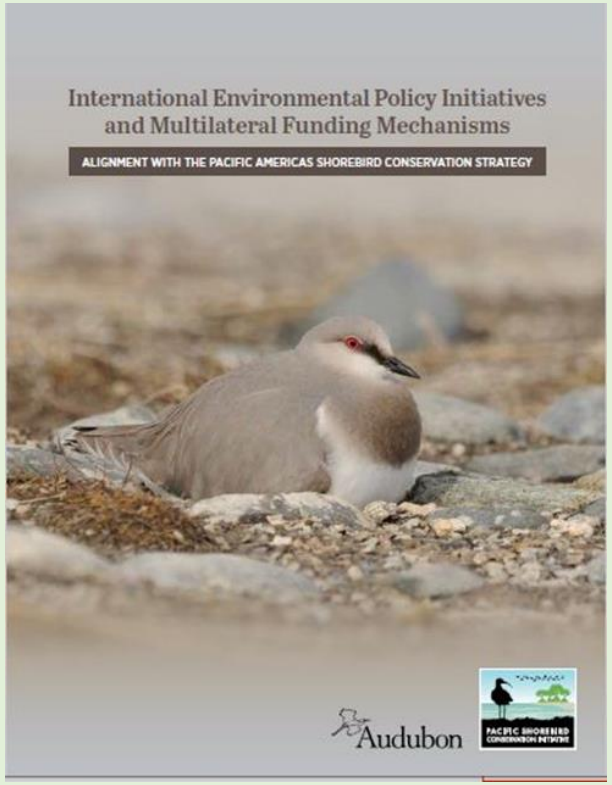
- Maintain coordination and communities of practice (working groups)
- Support partners in obtaining funding for projects and promoting their projects
- Build partnerships with new financial mechanisms (Americas Flyways Initiative)
- Support projects though technical assistance
- Diversify partnership and implement concepts of equity, diversity, belonging and inclusion
- Align conservation strategies with human wellbeing, ecosystems services & community based-conservation

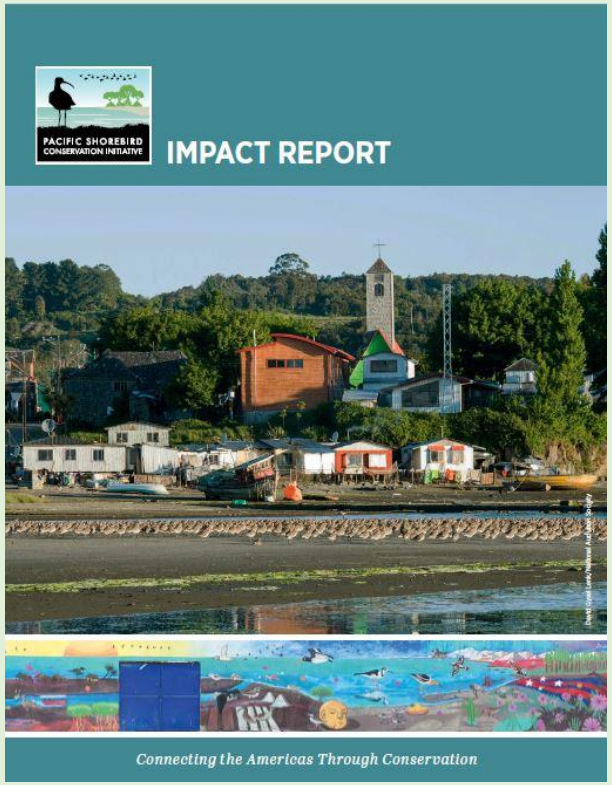
L. DeCicco

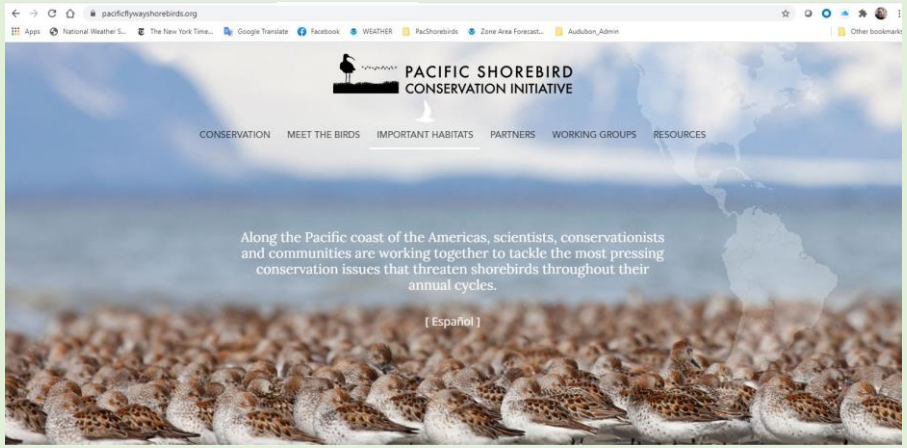
Creating the Pacific Human Disturbance Community of Practice

- Convened a Community of Practice (COP) by recruiting those interested and active in coastal stewardship programs with focus on reducing human recreational disturbance along the Pacific Coast of the Americas
- Collaborate with Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative's Disturbance Working Group to leverage expertise, share and identify gaps in resources
- Build out shared online resources to facilitate information exchange and promote collaborative COP communications
- Convened two virtual meetings & one webinar-workshop (with expert panelists) to advance the COP's shared priorities and needs for resources
- Adapt and translate Audubon's Coastal Stewardship for Latin American practitioners
- Create a Latin American focused toolkit that summarizes scientific studies, resources and case studies for reducing human disturbance in collaboration with the Migratory Shorebird Project (Released in Jan. 2024)

The Initiative's Resources







Acknowledgments

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service International Program

USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

USAID

Partnership organizations: in-kind support through staff time, travel funds, institutional and professional expertise

For more information or resources for the Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative please visit our website:
https://pacificflywayshorebirds.org/

River Gates (Audubon): river.gates@audubon.org

L. DeCicco

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Conference

10th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting to be held in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada, from August 11-16, 2024!

The calls for Symposia, Abstracts, Workshops and side-meetings are already open.

Symposia proposals : due **Dec 15, 2023**

Early Abstract submission (posters & talks): Early submission (travel awards and/or visas) is open now, with a deadline of **January 19th, 2024.** Submission should be done through the website form.

North American Banding Council (NABC) shorebird banding workshop before conference

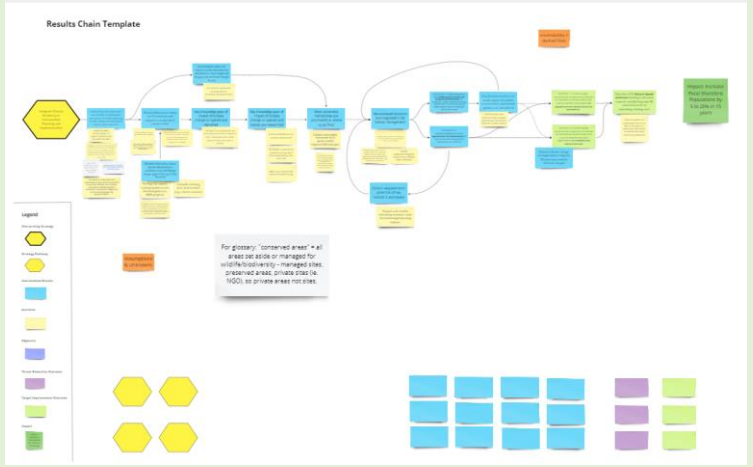
Sponsors: There are many alternatives to help! contact ***Rick, Stephen or I*** for more information and benefits.

Further information can be found at: **http://whsg2024.com/**

For workshops, side meetings and sponsors, you can contact **10thWHSGmeeting@gmail.com**

Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative

Benoit Laliberté (ECCC-CWS)



- Initial Workshop – July 2019 (8th WHSG)
- Regional Workshops - Oct. 2020 to March 2022
- Website www.midamericasshorebirds.com - April 2022
- April 2022 to August 2023: not much!
- Flyway-scale Workshops - Sept. 2023 to Dec. 2023

Next Steps

- Implementation and Monitoring “plans” – Jan. to March 2024
- Finalizing draft Framework and share with partners – March-June 2024
- Launch – August 2024 (10th WHSG)

Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative

Erin Cooper

- Ecotourism (Cordova Alaska 2024)
  - Latin American partners (Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, Peru)
- CRIMBI Meeting (Panama March 2024) Supporting Alaska Projects
  - International Biologist Exchange
    - Controller Bay Red Knot
    - USFWS Barrow
  - Motus towers on CRD
- International Projects
  - Migratory Shorebird Project- Point Blue
  - Connecting Festivals - WHSRN
  - Capacity Building – All CRIMBI Partners (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina)

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival

Erin Cooper

- Regenerative Tourism Focus
- Family Friendly
- Continue support of Hybrid events
- ART!!
- International Speakers
  - 2023 Chile
  - 2024 Guatemala and Argentina
- Field trip focus to Hartney Bay and Alaganik
- Ecotourism with USFS and CRIMBI
- 2024 Dates-May 4-5
  - Subhankar Banarjee Keynote Speaker

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International Wader Study Group

Working for shorebirds worldwide

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Launch of The Global Wader Tracking Data Project

Find out more →

Come Join Us!

Join the International Wader Study Group - we are committed to diversity and inclusivity. Everyone is welcome to become a member irrespective of their age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, nationality and

IWSG Small Projects Grants

Since 2016, the International Wader Study Group annually funds small projects.

Wader Study

Wader Study is the international journal of shorebird science published by the International Wader Study Group.

Support Us

DONATE NOW!

Join the discussion

- Annual meeting 29 Sept.–3 Oct. in Sylt, DE
- 86 talks, 31 posters
- End of Conklin Era at Wader Study
- Global Wader Tracking Data Project launched

Inspiring Actionable and Co-produced Science for Birds

- Understand population linkages and limiting factors causing bird declines.
- Create targeted conservation actions for Tipping Point Species, integrating social and biological science.

Get updates: quinn.carvey@unb.edu

Website: R2Rbirds.org

In-person workshop

January 16-19, 2024

FWS National Conservation Training Center (NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV)

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival 2023

1. 47.4% attended for the 1st time!
2. 42% had a Jr. or Teen Birder in the family
3. 136 species noted
4. Registration opened at 11am on a Wednesday and by 11:20, many tours were full
5. 2024 Keynote: Ted Floyd
6. 2024 Bird: Red-necked Phalarope
7. Volunteers WELCOME

Current Shorebird Research/Management

8:45am – 9:45am (3-minute lightning presentations)

1. Comparing southbound shorebird migratory strategy across population, species, and flyway *(Rozy Bathrick*)*
2. Evaluating effects of tracking device attachment methods on Black Oystercatchers *(Cole Rankin*)*
3. Lesser Yellowlegs exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides *(Shelby McCahon*)*
4. Dunlin nest survival and effects of human disturbance *(Sarah Hoepfner*)*
5. Identifying Dunlin behavior states: how do individuals respond to their environment? *(Aaron Yappert*)*
6. Dunlin (C.a.arcticola) adult survival *(Lindsay Hermanns*)*
7. Red Knot use of Controller Bay *(Jenell Larsen Tempel)*
8. Determining vital rates of Red Knots breeding in Alaska *(Zak Pohlen)*
9. Migration of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit(s) *(Dan Ruthrauff)*
10. Upland Sandpiper migration ecology *(Callie Gesmundo)*
11. Alpine nesting shorebirds in Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountains National Recreation Area *(Rick Lanctot)*

    Migration ecology of Surfbirds *(Rick Lanctot)*
12. Shorebirds for today & tomorrow: culture- and place-based learning at schools and communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta *(Liliana Naves)*
13. Alaska's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP): 2025 Revision *(Audrey Taylor)*

Comparing southbound shorebird migratory strategy across population, species, and flyway

Rozy Bathrick, Jim Johnson, Dan Ruthrauff, Nathan Senner

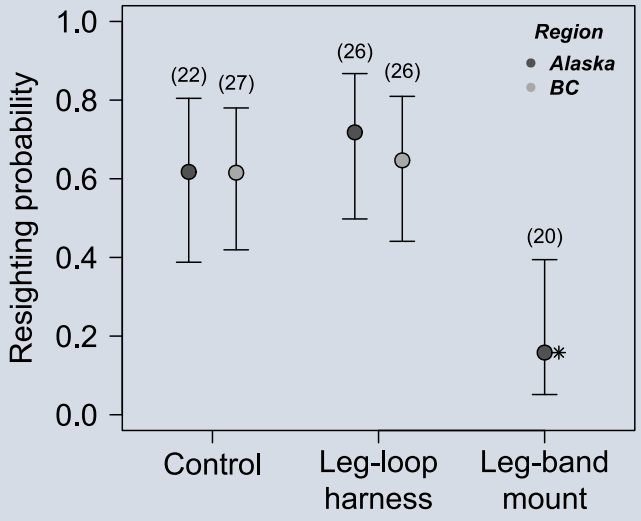
- What shapes diversity in migratory strategy? What species and populations are exposed to the greatest risk?
- GPS tracking of six species from two populations each, capturing differences within species and across genera
  - Sites near Long Range Radar Stations, chosen to maximize potential differences in strategy
- We have deployed transmitters on SBDO, GRYE, LEYE, and AMGP from two populations each
  - Next is PAGP and LBDO
- Papers and projects in the works:
  - SBDO flight strategy across the Gulf of Alaska,
  - Spatiotemporal overlap of LEYE in populations in the Prairie Pothole Region
  - Amazon Basin as a hub for Nearctic breeding shorebirds
- Contact Rozy – rebathrick@umass.edu

GRYE tracked to L.A. River, photo taken by local birder

Evaluating effects of tracking device attachment methods on Black Oystercatchers

Cole Rankin, Dan Esler, Lena Ware, Brian Robinson, Heather Coletti, David Green

- Is 5%, 3% or 1% of body mass good enough?
  - Effects from other factors should be considered
- To study Black Oystercatcher movement, how do we attach devices?
  - Evaluated effects of 2 attachment methods on annual resighting probabilities
- Leg band-mounted geolocators reduced resighting probabilities
  - Tags attached using a harness were comparable to controls
- Black Oystercatchers were sensitive to leg attachments and should be avoided in the future
  - Despite being <1% of body mass!



Leg-band mount

Leg-loop harness

Lesser Yellowlegs exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides

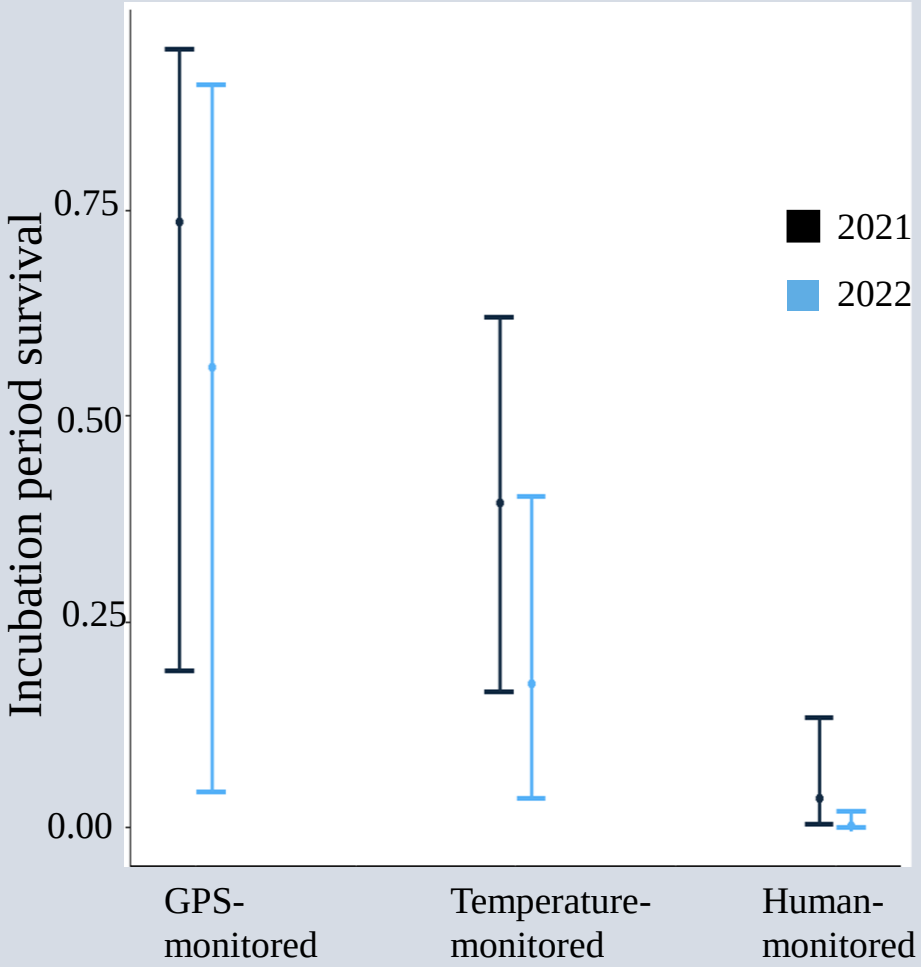
Shelby McCahon, *Courtney Conway, Katherine Christie, Christy Morrissey*

- Neonicotinoids may impose adverse effects on Lesser Yellowlegs body condition and prey availability
  - Neonicotinoids have been shown to suppress appetite in birds and reduce invertebrate abundance
- ***Objective:*** Quantify neonicotinoid concentrations in water, invertebrates, and shorebird plasma
- We found frequent detections of neonicotinoids in water (33-55%) and plasma samples (15-69%)
  - *Water Samples:* Concentrations were below effect levels to invertebrates (Toxic Units < 1; max. = 0.18)
  - *Plasma Samples:* We report the highest concentration in a wild bird that consumes neonics indirectly (120.8 µg/L)
- ***Next steps***
  - Quantify ***direct*** effects of neonicotinoids on body condition and migratory refueling
  - Assess ***indirect*** effects of neonicotinoids on invertebrate biomass

Dunlin Nest Survival and Effects of Human Disturbance

Sarah Hoepfner, Rick Lanctot, Steve Dinsmore,
Sarah Saalfeld, Aaron Yappert

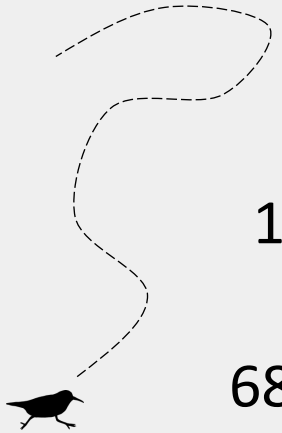
- Human nest monitoring may bias nest survival estimates
- We used GPS transmitters to remotely monitor Dunlin nesting
  - No human disturbance to these nests, provide nest survival estimates free of human bias
    - Temperature-monitored nests had medium level of disturbance
    - Human-monitored nests had highest level of disturbance
- We found that human-monitored nests had the lowest nest survival of the three groups
  - Human activity at nests increases the chances of depredation
  - GPS- and temperature-monitored nests had similar survival estimates for 2021 and 2022
- Likely a larger issue – past studies may have biased results due to the effects of monitoring methods used
  - Assess effects of human disturbance in other studies, work to limit it
  - We suggest using remote monitoring methods



Identifying Dunlin Behavior States: How do Individuals Respond to their Environment?

Aaron Yappert[1] | Dr. Anna Tucker[1,2] | Dr. Stephen Dinsmore[1] | Dr. Richard Lanctot[3]
1 Iowa State University | 2 USGS Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Unit | 3 USFWS Migratory Bird Program

Background

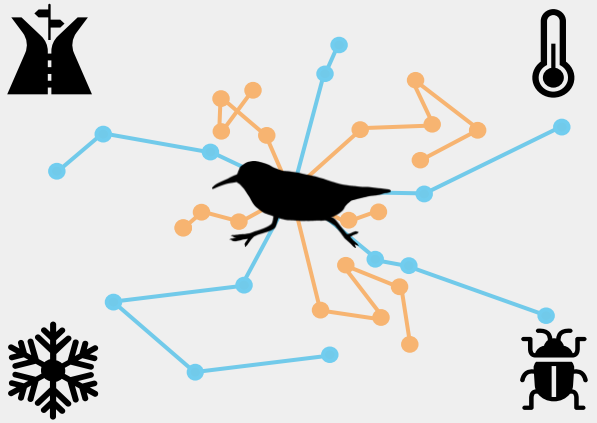


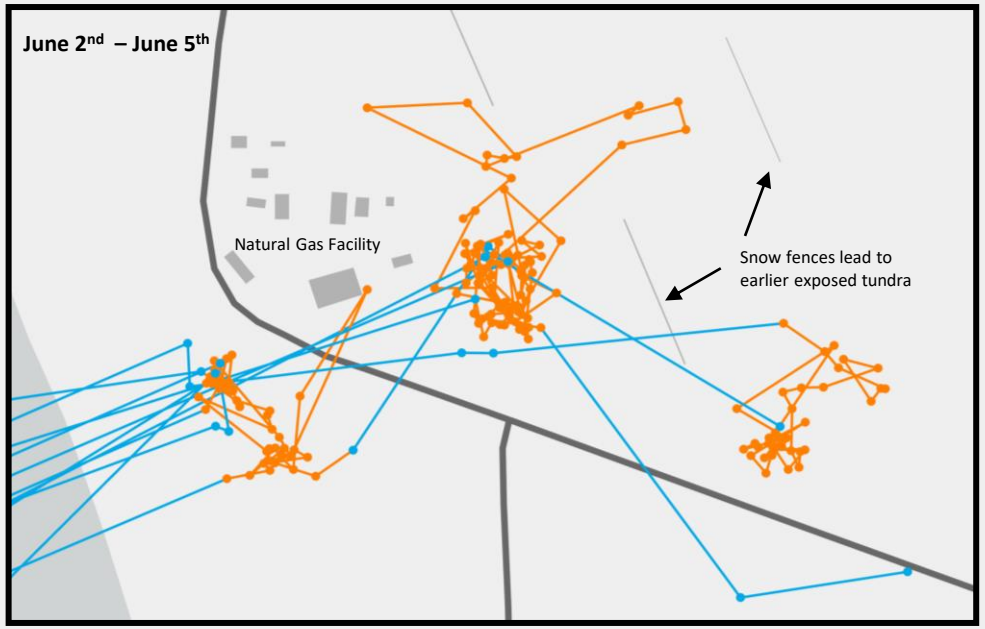
3 Years

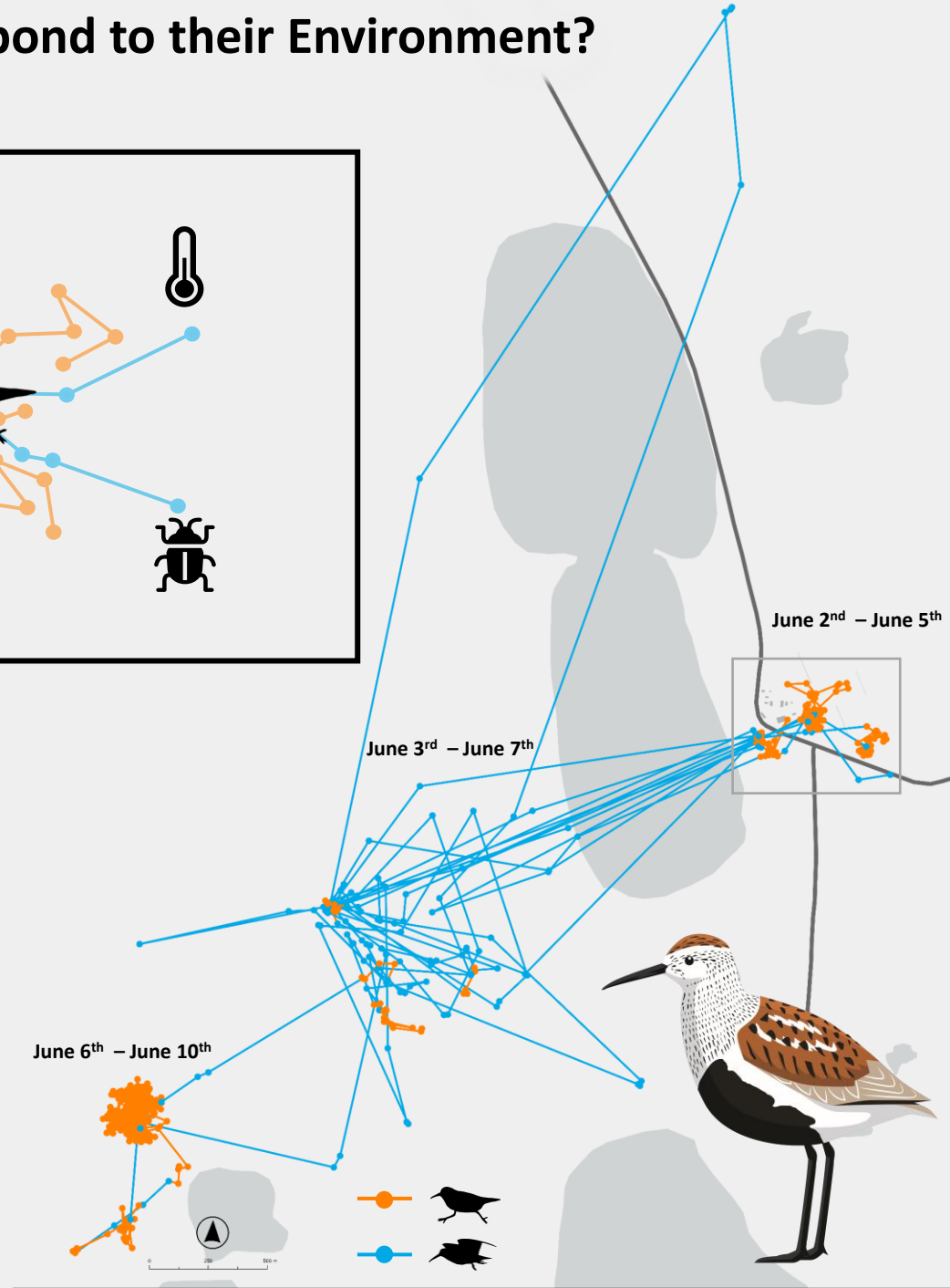
15-Minute Locations

68 Pre-nesting Dunlin

Objectives







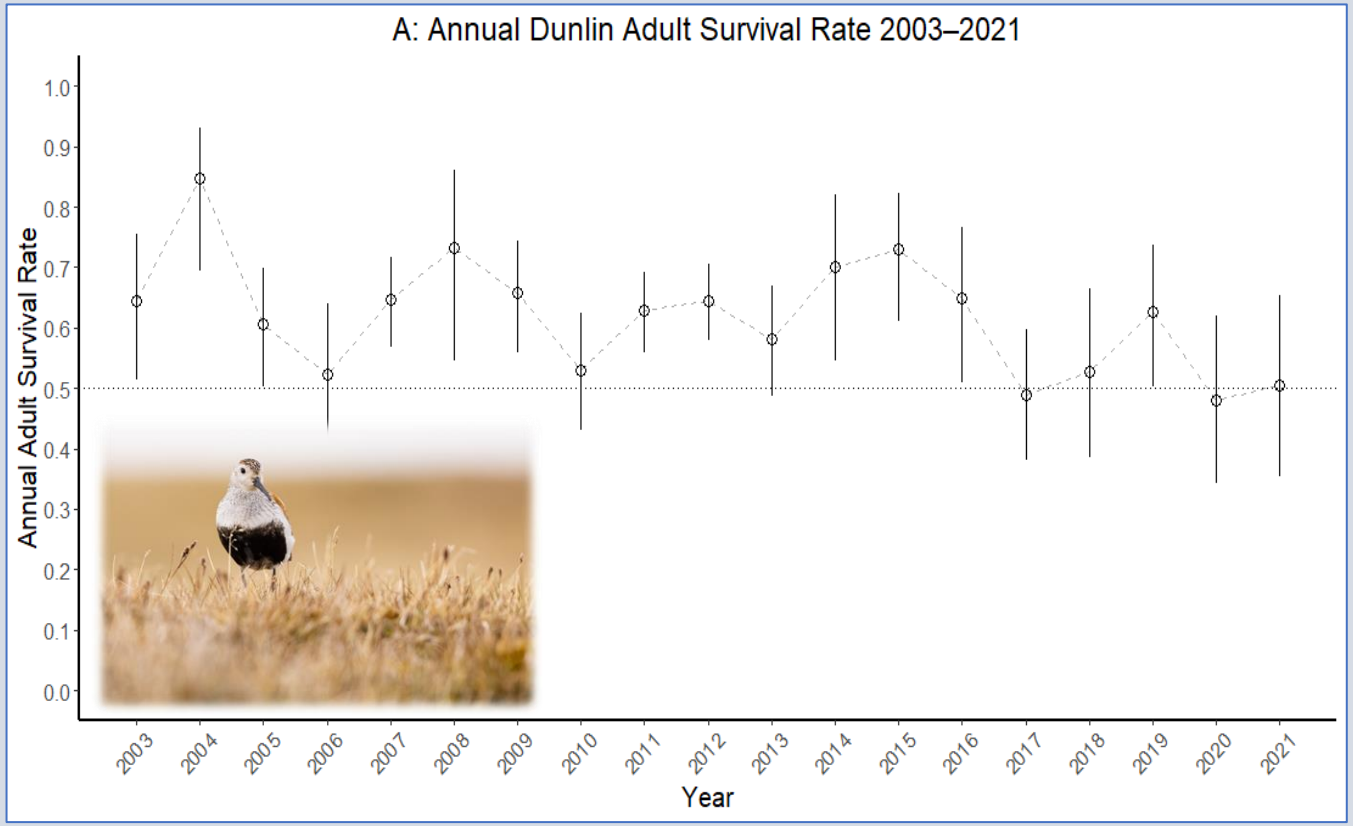
Dunlin *(C.a.arcticola)* Adult Survival

Lindsay Hermanns

- Migratory shorebirds are among the most rapidly declining avian taxa.
- Adult survival can be impacted by conditions across the annual life cycle.

- Barker model to estimate true survival using 19 years (2003 – 2021) of mark-recapture data and environmental data, collected from a breeding area, Utqiaġvik, Alaska, U.S.A.
- \+ resighting observations and habitat data from non-breeding sites in eastern Asia (Japan, China, Taiwan).

- True adult survival rate (S = 0.62, 95% CI = 0.50–0.73) remain low enough to solicit concern for the subspecies.
- Adult survival + associated with non-breeding intertidal extent and breeding ground precipitation.



- Calls for greater understanding of how climate change will continue to alter breeding areas (more precipitation predicted in Arctic) and for bolstering habitat in non-breeding areas
- Publishing to Biological Conservation (?)

*(β = 0.11, 85% C.I. = 0.01 – 0.21, β = 0.39, 85% C.I. = 0.19 – 0.39

Red Knot use of Controller Bay

Jenell Larsen Tempel[1], Erin Cooper[2], Nick Docken[2], Julie Schram[3], Julian Garcia-Walther[4], Erin Grey[5], Alan Kneidel[6], Christiana Teye[5]
jenell.larsentempel@alaska.gov

Big picture: using new tools to understand the importance of Controller Bay to *roselaari* Red Knots.

eDNA for diet analysis

Benefits:

- Useful for identifying soft bodied prey
- Can be sure that the fecal pellets you collect belong to the target species

Limitations:

- Prey items for birds in Alaska may not be catalogued, requires sampling potential prey items
- May be necessary to develop primers, costly

MOTUS for migratory studies

Benefits:

- Useful for multiple projects and species
- Data is publicly available
- Useful for understanding large scale and fine scale migratory patterns

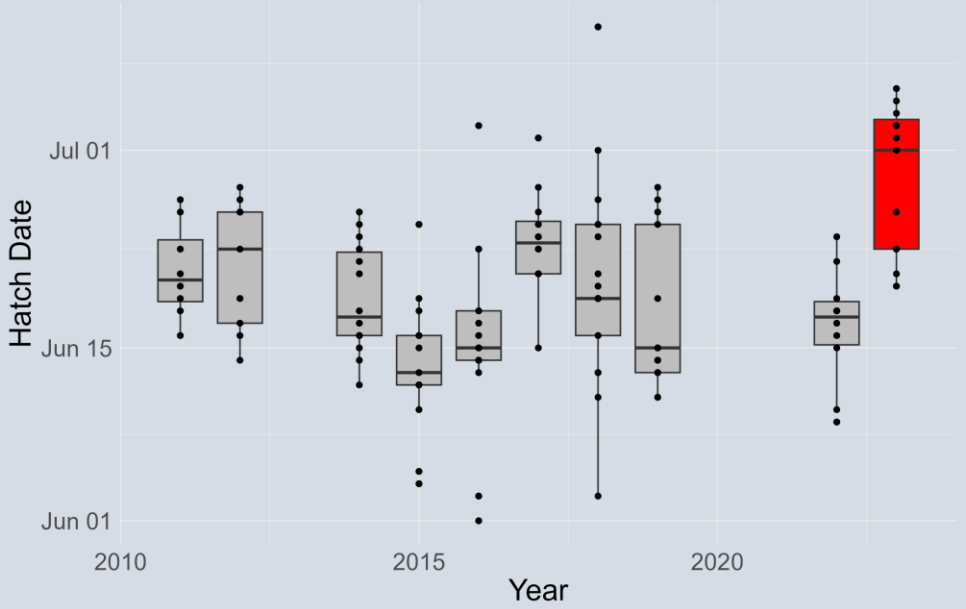
Limitations:

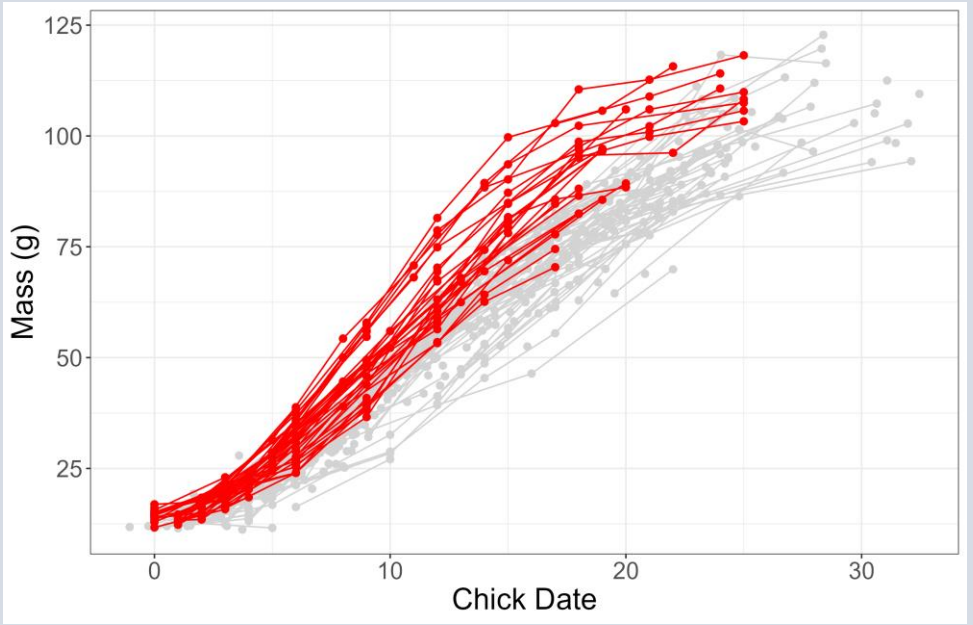
- Direction of antennae may result in missed detections of birds
- Does not provide exact locational data
- Not good for detection probability

Determining vital rates of Red Knots breeding in Alaska

Zak Pohlen and Jim Johnson (USFWS Migratory Bird Program), Kelsi Hunt (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), Jan van Gils and Tim Oortwijn (Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research)

- *roselaari* Red Knots - ASG species of **Greatest** Conservation need
  - Preliminary work indicates the already small *roselaari* population might be two even smaller genetically distinct populations
  - Limited knowledge of the breeding ecology
- Methods
  - 12th year of research on the breeding grounds
  - Targeting the brood rearing period
  - Environmental factors influence chick growth and survival
- Results
  - 2023 was the most unique year we have seen
  - Latest breeding season we have recorded (late snow)
  - Highest chick growth and survival
- Future/In progress
  - Need to finish analyzing insect and fecal samples collected since 2019
  - Accessing remote sensed snowmelt data (Google Earth Engine)
  - Chick survival publication and the impacts of climate change & forecasted increased precipitation (in progress)
  - Adult survival publication in 2024





Migration of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit(s)

Dan Ruthrauff, Jesse Conklin, Jim Johnson & Bart Kempenaers

- Nome, AK: 6/25–7/20
- 10 chicks from 6 broods
- Moved 3–5 km / day

‘B6’

- 11 days
- 13,435 km / 8,330 miles
- Average speed: 52 kmh
- Maximum speed: 122 kmh
- Age: ~4 months

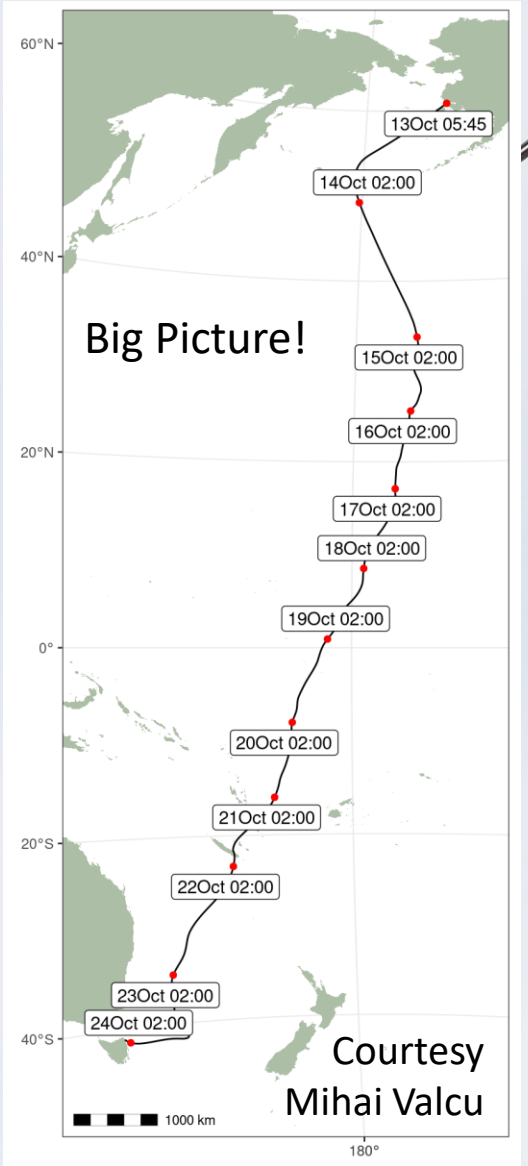


Photo Luke DeCicco

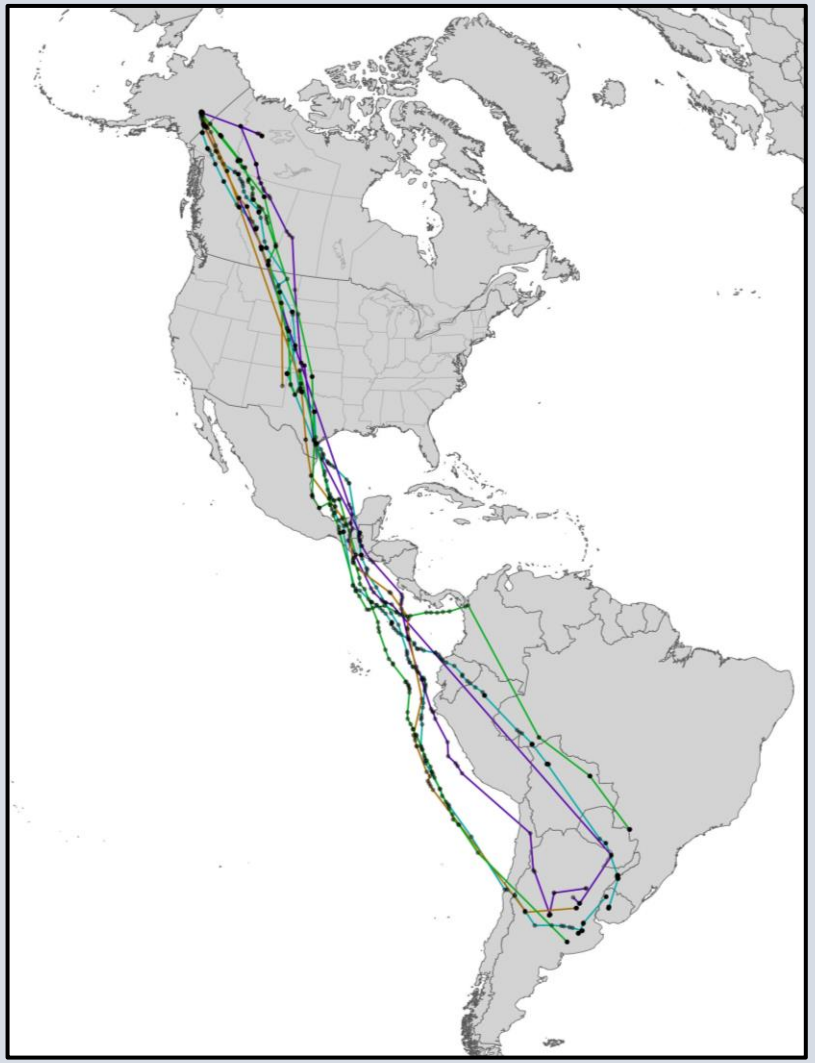
Next steps

- Outreach efforts on YKD
- Coproduce breeding study
- Try again!

Upland Sandpiper Migration Ecology

Callie Gesmundo, Zak Pohlen, Hannah Vincelette, Rick Lanctot, Jim Johnson (USFWS)

- Migration routes, stopover sites, and wintering locations of Alaska-breeding Upland Sandpipers.
- Captures over chick-rearing adults with mist nets and chick calls.
  - 29 transmitters deployed (15 PinPoint Argos GPS 75; 14 Sunbird PTTs)
- Good Success.
  - 97% (28) transmitters recorded data.
  - 36% (10) of those have at least full annual cycle track lines (fall, winter, spring+)
  - 21% (6) have a full fall, winter, and partial spring track lines.
  - 29% (8) recorded a partial southbound migration.
  - 14% (4) did not transmit after Alaska/Canada.
- Narrow migratory corridor through the Midcontinent Flyway
  - Cross at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and over the Pacific Ocean to and from South America.
  - Non-breeding areas occur in northeast Argentina and Uruguay.
- Part of a larger, range-wide collaborative study of Upland Sandpiper migratory connectivity and contaminants (University of Saskatchewan).
- Data shared with and utilized by the Shorebird Collective & Atlas of Migratory Connectivity (SMBU)
- Data part of paper under review - Shorebirds in the Amazon (Linscott et al.)



Full annual cycle track lines of 4 individuals from Delta Junction, AK Jan-Nov 2023.

Alpine Nesting Shorebirds in Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountains National Recreation Area

Sam Simon, Shawn Crimmins, Jim Herriges, Claire Montgomerie, Rick Lanctot

- Objective: quantify probability of occurrence of Surfbirds using resource selection functions in two areas (possibly others); collect baseline breeding ecology information
- Methods: conduct surveys using trails / nearby roads / helicopters to remote areas, and collate location data from prior studies; document location of territories and nest/brood sites
- Timeline: summers 2024, 2025

Migration Ecology of Surfbirds

Scott Flemming, Autumn-Lynn Harrison, Rick Lanctot, Sarah Saalfeld, Juan Navedo, Jim Johnson, Julian Garcia Walther, Adriana Hernandez, Jesse Conklin, Sydney Bliss, Chloe Boynton, Robin Corcoran, Vanessa Loverti, Tracy Borneman, Sam Simon, Shawn Crimmins, maybe others

- Objective: determine migratory connectivity, migration routes, stopover sites, habitats used, and threats along route
- Methods: capture and equip adults with Lotek Sunbird PTT tags at multiple sites in breeding and nonbreeding range
- Timeline: 2023-2026

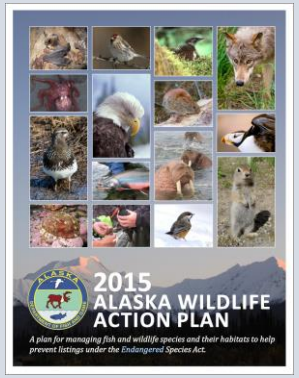
Shorebirds for Today & Tomorrow: Culture- and Place-Based Learning at Schools and Communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Liliana Naves, Brenda Duty, Richard Lanctot, Alissa Rogers, Lara Mengak

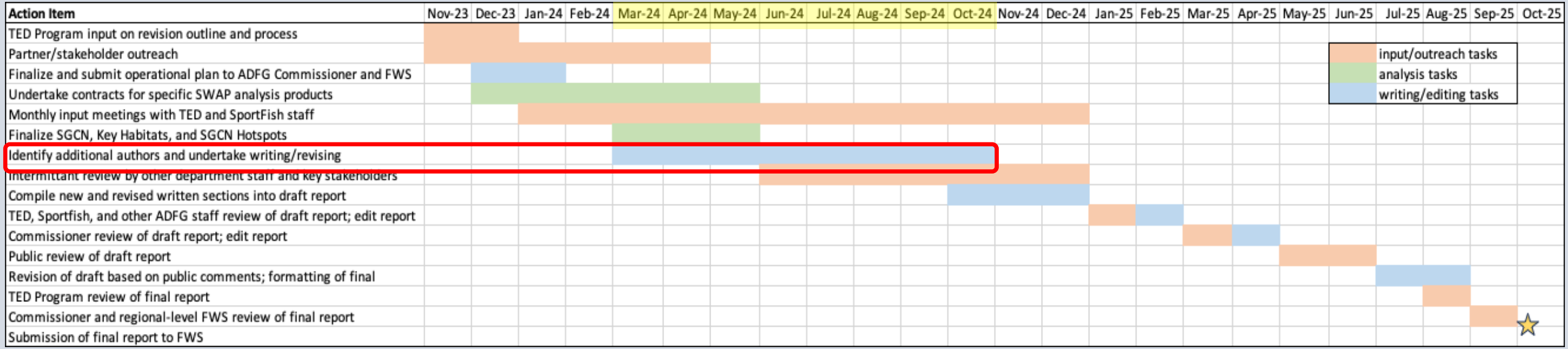
- Subsistence harvest of shorebirds in AK is relatively small (~2,800 birds/year, ~4,700 eggs/year) but includes species of concern. Indigenous peoples are important partners in conservation.
- Harvest & traditional knowledge research 2017-2019 -> ongoing outreach & education
- So far outreach program reached ~1,800 youth in 15 communities
- Planning for & seeking funding for at least one more cycle of outreach
- Presentation at “Indigenous Partnerships” session 14 Dec (Thu), 1:30-5:00 pm (3:35-3:50 pm)

Alaska's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP): 2025 Revision

Audrey Taylor & Tracey Gotthardt, TED Program, ADFG audrey.taylor@alaska.gov



- What is a SWAP and why is it important?
- Alaska's SWAP needs to be revised by October 1, 2025
  - Goal for 2025: to make document more user-friendly (ultimately: online & searchable)
  - To add: prioritization of SGCN list, links between SGCN and areas/habitats that support them, integration of climate change
  - New structure: BIOREGIONAL approach (similar to Alaska Shorebird & Landbird Plans)
- What can ASG and BPIF help with?
  - Cindi Jacobson (Innovative Outcomes) will be reaching out for stakeholder input via questionnaire
  - Write species vignettes, help develop regional conservation concerns & priority research/actions, provide PHOTOS



Break 10:00 – 10:15am

Alaska Bird Outreach Group

Coalition of individuals from various organizations interested in working on communication and outreach efforts to promote bird conservation.

3 Billion Birds Group

Collaborate on outreach efforts related to the recovery of three billion birds lost as reported by Rosenberg et. al. in *Science*.

*Focus on how to apply 7 Simple Steps in Alaska.

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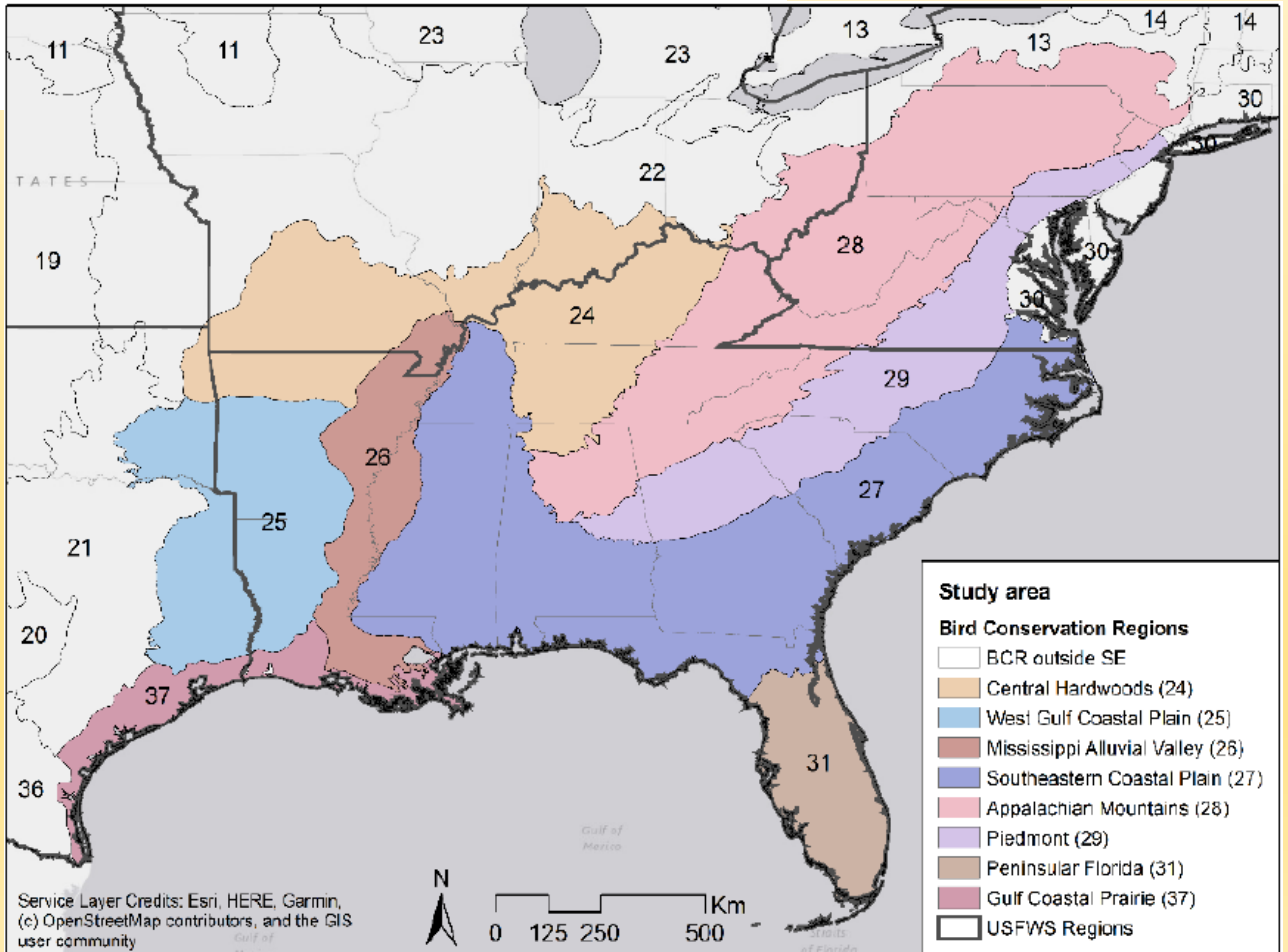
Our Work | How to Help

Nicole Michel

Director, Quantitative Science

- Develop regional population change estimates comparable to continental estimates from Rosenberg et al. 2019 *Science*



❖ **Wednesday 13th, 4-4:15 pm**

Recent Decline of Alaska's Landbird Avifauna

Seven(+) Simple Steps:
Topics for Action

- **Reduce Bird Collisions (towers, turbines, windows, boats)**
- **Reduce/eliminate hazards of lead shot, lead fishing tackle, and discarded fishing line**
- **Promote Bird-friendly Coffee**
- Eliminate/Reduce Light Pollution including offshore lighting
- Plant Natives/Reduce Pesticides
- Avoid bird nesting season when clearing vegetation/protect nesting habitat
- Keep cats indoors/dogs on a leash
- Invasive Species Management (E. Starlings, vegetation, N. Pike)
- Report your birds – citizen science and eBird

WETLAND WANDERER

LESSER YELLOWLEGS OF BASHER BOG

BOREAL BIRTHPLACE

Lesser Yellowlegs make their summer home in the forest-tundra habitats across Canada and Alaska, including wetlands around Anchorage like Basher Bog. Wetlands throughout southcentral Alaska provide important habitat for this species to nest and raise chicks. The chicks, feathered and walking within hours of hatching, learn to fly in just 22 days! Once flighted, the chicks become independent from their parents and migrate later, without parental guidance along the way.

EPIC MIGRATIONS

These feathered ambassadors leave Alaska in late summer and travel south to their wintering grounds, stopping periodically before reaching the southern United States, Mexico, Caribbean Islands, and South America. Local biologists discovered where Anchorage-breeding Lesser Yellowlegs stop during their migrations and where they spend the winter by attaching GPS transmitters to birds. Some birds will travel up to 16,500 miles annually! For a 15-year-old bird, that is the equivalent of flying to the moon!

CONSERVATION

The Lesser Yellowlegs is one of the fastest declining shorebirds in North America. They face many threats during their annual lifecycle including habitat loss, agrochemical pollution at migratory and wintering sites, unregulated hunting in some countries, and even our beloved pets. When visiting wetlands in and around Anchorage, you can help by keeping your dog on a leash. When at home, they also benefit from having your cat kept on a leash or indoors.

DID YOU KNOW?

Soon after Lesser Yellowlegs chicks hatch, their parents take them on a journey to seek out freshwater ponds that provide plentiful food. On this trek, the flightless chicks sometimes need to cross busy roads and encounter dangerous predators.

If you hear a bird calling repeatedly near you, you might be close to its nest or chicks! Back away slowly and be careful where you step!

If a 737 series 800 commercial jet was traveling the same distance as a Lesser Yellowlegs migrates in a year, it would have to refuel 5 times using 37,000 gallons of fuel!

Look and listen for Lesser Yellowlegs perched on the tops of trees standing guard over their territories, nests, or young chicks.

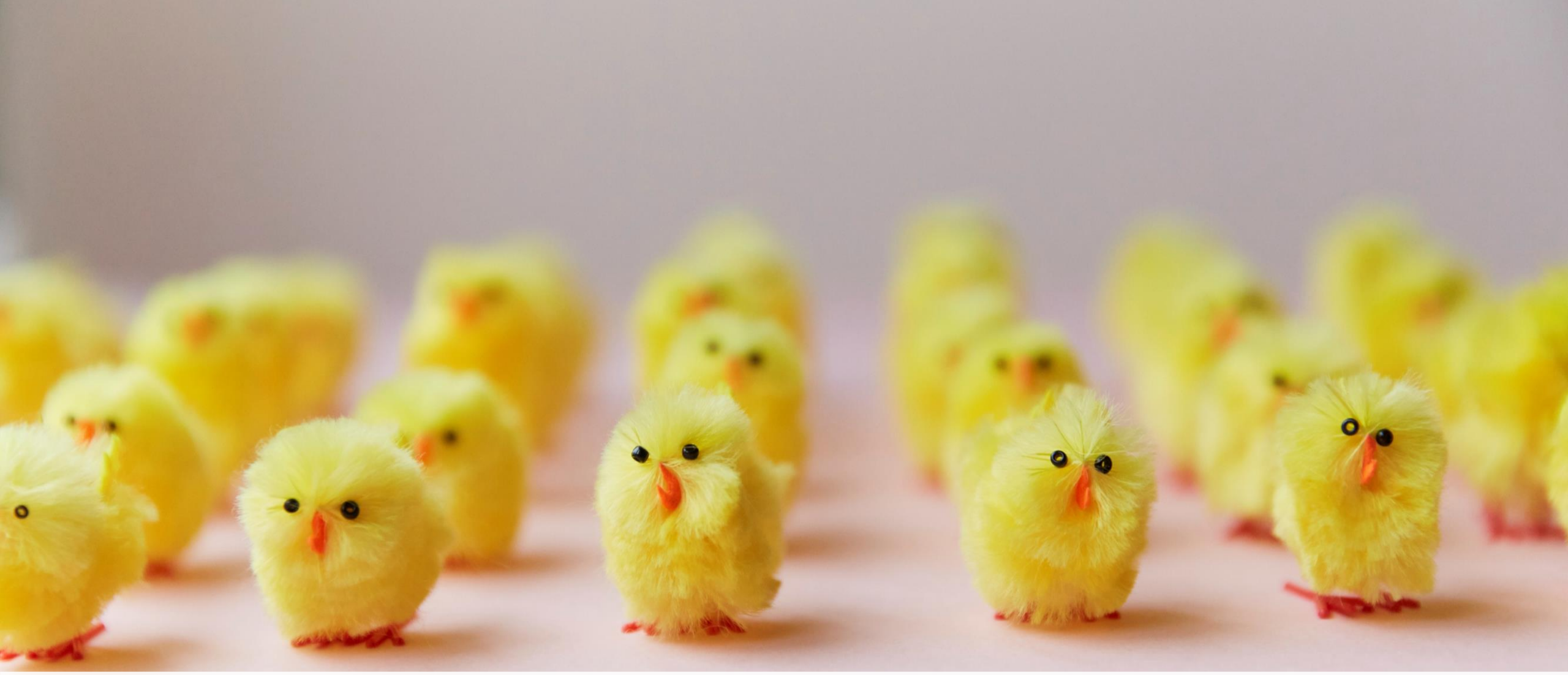
THIS PANEL WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

ANCHORAGE BIRDING TRAIL

- ✓ First sign installed at Basher Bog this October.
- ✓ Otter Lake JBER sign spring, 2024.

Continuing Goal: signs throughout Anchorage about AK-breeding migratory birds, linked via trail and StoryMap.

Utqiaġvik Shorebird Festival 2023



Join Us!

Annual Summary Compilation: New and Ongoing Studies or Initiatives Focused on Alaska Shorebirds – November 2023

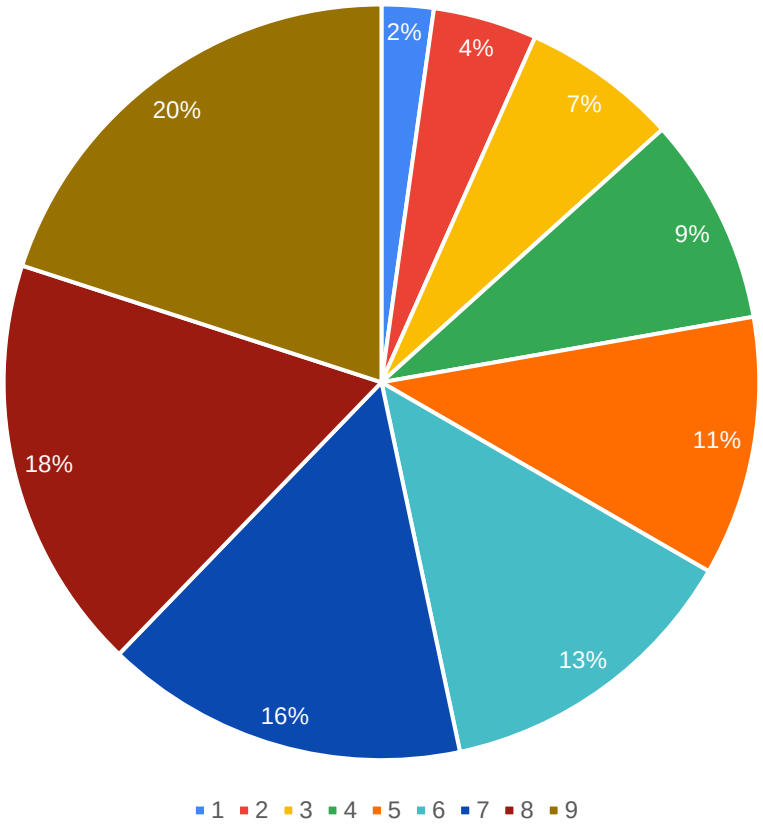
Blake Richard

Summary

- 22 projects / initiatives
- 8 recent publications
- 2 unpublished reports
- 3 articles in progress
- 1 web document
- 1 data release
- 1 presentation

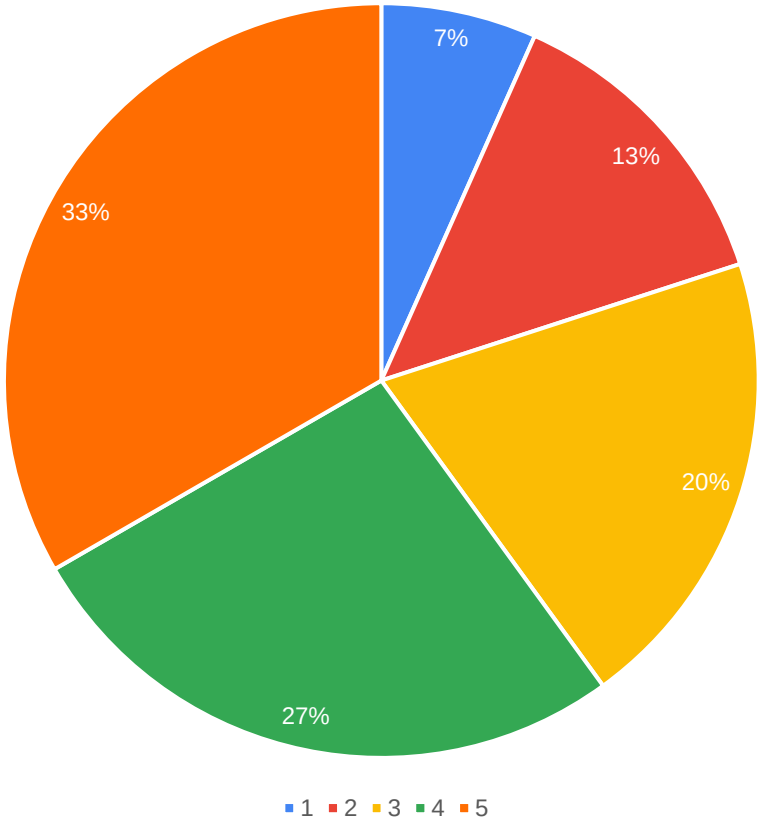
A. Underwood

Research



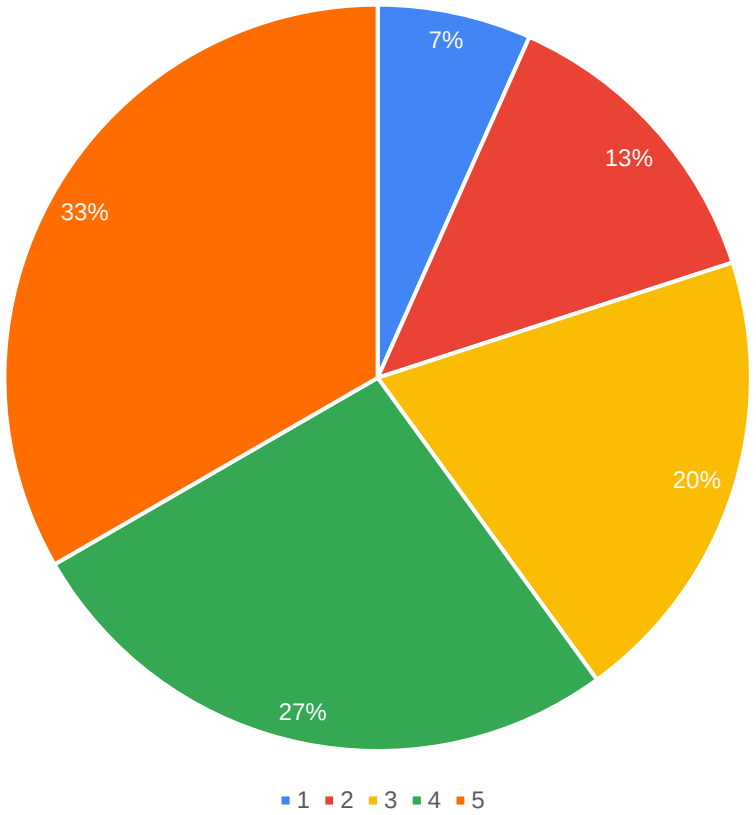
1. Identify and determine the magnitude of factors limiting shorebird populations during breeding and nonbreeding periods of the annual cycle.
2. Determine migratory timing, routes, and site use of shorebirds.
3. Assess the effects of climate change on shorebird demography.
4. Conduct breeding ecology studies on species occupying alpine, boreal, or other rare or difficult-to-access habitats.
5. Obtain better estimates of illegal and legal harvest levels for Alaska-breeding shorebirds within Alaska and when outside Alaska.
6. Identify effects associated with energy production, mining, disturbance, and other anthropogenic activities on shorebirds.
7. Identify and delineate potentially distinct populations of shorebirds breeding in Alaska.
8. Develop habitat-based models to predict the abundance and distribution of shorebirds and assess the adaptability of shorebirds to habitat changes.
9. Not applicable

Population Inventory and Monitoring



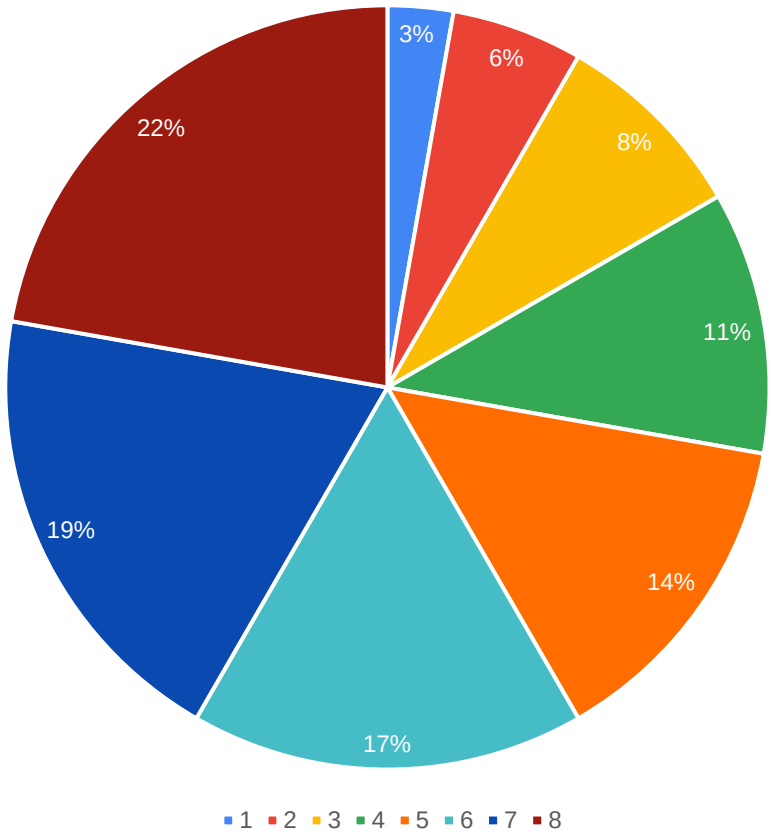
1. Inventory alpine, boreal, and other poorly studied shorebird species.
2. Conduct long-term population monitoring efforts (e.g., PRISM).
3. Evaluate the efficacy of existing programs (e.g., the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey [ALMS], Breeding Bird Survey [BBS] program) to monitor shorebird populations.
4. Assess the utility of new technologies (e.g., Automated Recording Units, aerial drones, eBird) to determine shorebird presence and abundance.
5. Not applicable

Habitat Management and Protection



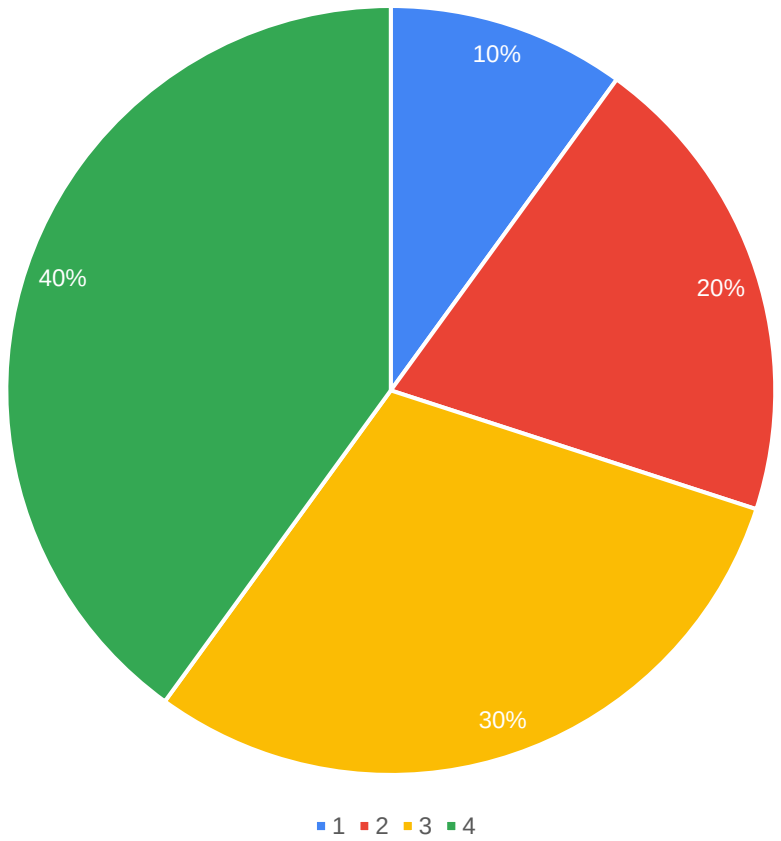
1. Apply abundance and distribution information to identify key shorebird habitats and sites.
2. Support land acquisitions, easements, restoration efforts, and conservation designations (e.g., the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, East Asian–Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Important Bird Areas Programs) for key shorebird sites.
3. Minimize loss and degradation of critical shorebird habitats by participating in natural resource planning and management.
4. Model the potential effects of climate change on shorebird habitats and identify future potential regions of habitat refugia.
5. Not applicable

Environmental Protection and Public Outreach



1. Raise the profile of shorebirds through public presentations, media outreach, support of shorebird festivals, and collaboration with education programs.
2. Develop shorebird-related outreach and media materials.
3. Host workshops and outreach events to engage the diverse communities of Alaska in shorebird conservation.
4. Encourage the synthesis and reporting of results of Alaskan shorebird studies to scientific and general audiences.
5. Promote shorebird education to youth via the Shorebird Sister Schools Program.
6. Identify and support ways to involve citizen scientists in shorebird monitoring programs.
7. Incorporate principles of good governance in research and outreach efforts.
8. Not applicable

International Collaborations



1. Foster and participate in cooperative research and monitoring efforts throughout species' ranges (e.g., Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, PRISM, Migratory Shorebird Project, and Arctic Birds Breeding Conditions Survey).
2. Participate in partnerships to conserve migratory shorebirds and their habitats in the circumpolar Arctic (e.g., the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna working group and initiatives therein), North America (e.g., landscape conservation cooperatives, joint ventures, flyway councils), Western Hemisphere (e.g., Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group), Asia (e.g., East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership), and other partnerships as they arise.
3. Coordinate and participate in international, national, and other regional shorebird conservation planning efforts (e.g., Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative).
4. Not applicable

ASG Priority Species Progress Sheet

ASG priority species progress sheet - Google Sheets

Instructions: Below is a list of high-priority species listed in the Alaska shorebird plan. Please select one or more species you have worked on in the past 10 years and fill out columns B-G as best you can. Choose a categorical response for whether the objective has been met, the objective is in progress, or if your group has not started on this objective. Feel free to elaborate in the comments section.

Priority species	Research - Identify factors limiting survival and reproduction	Population monitoring - Obtain data necessary to detect trends	Habitat management - Identify, restore, and/or conserve critical habitat during breeding, migration, or the non-breeding period	Working group formed?	Your name(s)	Comments
Bristle-thighed Curlew	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Haven't started on this c	Lee Tibbitts, USGS;	winter study sites are small a
Bar-tailed Godwit (*baueri*)	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Dan Ruthrauff, Jim Johnson, Jesse Conklin	
Red Knot (*roselaari*)	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	objective in progress	Objective has been met	Jenell Larsen Tempel, ADFG (in collaboration with FS), FWS-Mig Birds	
Black Oystercatcher	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Haven't started on this c	Dan Esler, USGS (in collaboration with NPS as part of the Gulf Watch Alaska nearsh	
American Golden-Plover	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Haven't started on this c	Rick Lanctot, USFWS	
Pacific Golden-Plover	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Objective in progress	Lee Tibbitts, USGS;	winter study sites are small and may not be representative; citizen science groups in Hawaii have a Kolea group
Whimbrel (*hudsonicus*)	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	objective in progress	Objective in progress	Rick Lanctot, USFWS, Chris Harwood, Dan Ruthrauff, Lee Tibbitts, Bob Gill	
Hudsonian Godwit	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Nate Senner	
Marbled Godwit	Haven't started on this obje	Objective in progress	Haven't started	Haven't started on this c	Dan Ruthrauff and Lee Tibbitts	
Black Turnstone	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Haven't started on this c	objective	
Dunlin (*arcticola*)	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Rick Lanctot, USFWS	
Rock Sandpiper (*ptilocnemis*)	Haven't started on this obje	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Rachel Richardson, Dan Ruthrauff, Lee Tibbitts, USGS	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective has been met	Rick Lanctot, USFWS	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this obje	Haven't started on this c	Rick Lanctot, USFWS	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Rick Lanctot, USFWS	
Short-billed Dowitcher (*caurinus*)	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this ob	Objective in progress	Haven't started on this c	Rozy Bathrick, Jim Johnson, Nate Senner, Dan Ruthrauff	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective in progress	Objective has been met	Laura McDuffie, Katie Christie, Jim Johnson, Brad Andres, Kelly Srigley Werner, Chris Harwood, Shelb	

Categorical responses

- Objective has been met
- Objective in progress
- Haven't started on this objective

Priority species	Threat(s)	People investigating or addressing threats
Bristle-thighed Curlew	Invasive species, sea level rise	
Bar-tailed Godwit (*baueri*)	Loss/degradation of staging sites in Yellow Sea; accidental catch du	Global Flyway Network folks (Piersma, Ma et al.)
Red Knot (*roselaari*)		
Black Oystercatcher	sea level rise, coastal contamination, human disturbance	
American Golden-Plover	subsistence harvest in Caribbean and N South America	
Pacific Golden-Plover		
Whimbrel (*hudsonicus*)	Loss and degradation of nonbreeding habitats	
Hudsonian Godwit		
Marbled Godwit	Concentration at migration sites; loss/degredation of stopover sites;	Ruthrauff & Tibbitts; Becharof NWR staff
Black Turnstone	sea level rise	
Dunlin (*arcticola*)	intertidal habitat loss on wintering grounds	
Rock Sandpiper (*ptilocnemis*)	Concentration at wintering sites	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	habitat loss and modification, ag chemical contamination,	Buffy working group
Pectoral Sandpiper	habitat loss and modification, ag chemical contamination,	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Subsistence Harvest in N South America	David Mizrahi
Short-billed Dowitcher (*caurinus*)		
Lesser Yellowlegs	Harvest in northern S. America, pesticides, other agricultural practices	Katie Christie, Jim Johnson, Brad Andres, Kelly Srigley Werner, Shelby McCahon

- Has there been any progress over the past year?
- Do we want to continue to keep tabs on progress using this spreadsheet?
- Are we meeting our group objectives?

Vision: *To create impactful, collaborative partnerships that inspire effective conservation actions to maintain or enhance shorebird populations*

ASG Data Inventory

- **What is this?** A *simple* inventory list
- **Why is it necessary?** Keep a record of shorebird-related work that has been completed in Alaska and the Arctic/sub-Arctic; PIs should know where their project data is located and the current status
- **What is the value?**
  - ✓ Reduce redundancy (saves money!)
  - ✓ Build collaborations (students/professionals, domestic/international)
  - ✓ Better Science & Decision-Making (reproducibility, informed decisions)

RPubs by RStudio

Sign in Regist

Lesser Yellowlegs

Project	Data Theme	Focal Species	Location	Years	Data Access	URL	Contact & Agency	Co-Investigators
Juvenile shorebird morphological data collected in Alaska and Canada (ver2.0)	Morphology	American Golden…	Alaska; Yukon De…	1997, 1998, 1999,…	Public Repository	https://doi.org/10.5066/P9ZH3JNQ	Dan Ruthrauff; U…	U.S. Geological S…
Bird species checklists from USGS Alaska Science Center field camps	Distribution and Abundance	American Avocet,…	Alaska; Mexico; …	1973, 1974, 1975,…	Public Repository	https://doi.org/10.5066/P950QX28	USGS Alaska Sci…	
Observational data of migratory birds during spring and fall migration and their use of habitats in the Yakutat Forelands of Alaska in 1980	Distribution and Abundance	Black Oystercatch…	Alaska; Yakutat	1980	Public Repository	https://doi.org/10.5066/P9OF3NRM	John Pearce; USG…	Margaret Petersen
Lesser Yellowlegs (Tringa flavipes) migratory movements	Tracking	Lesser Yellowlegs	Alaska; Anchorag…	2018, 2019, 2020,…	Public Repository	https://www.movebank.org/cms/webapp?gwt_fragment=page=studies,path=study543061768	Jim Johnson; U.S.…	Laura McDuffie, …
USGS Alaska Science Center adult shorebird morphological measurement data	Morphology	American Golden…	Alaska; Hawaii	1977, 1978, 1979,…	Public Repository	https://doi.org/10.5066/P9KNRWXB	Dan Ruthrauff; U…	Lee Tibbitts, Rob…
Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective	Tracking	American Golden…	Alaska; Canada;	2022			Autumn-Lynn Ha…	Allie Anderson, C…
Atlas of migratory connectivity for the birds of North America (part of Migratory Connectivity Project)	Tracking	American Golden…	Alaska; Canada; …	2022			Autumn-Lynn Ha…	Amy Scarpignato,…
Shorebird distribution, abundance, and habitat associations in the proposed Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric project area, interior Alaska	Distribution and Abundance	American Golden…	Alaska; Susitna R…	2014				Terry Schick, Riv…
Shorebirds observed on Middleton, Island: notes on species composition, abundance, and timing during autumn migration	Distribution and Abundance	Black-bellied Plo…	Alaska; Middleto…	2011, 2012, 2013,…				Lucas DeCicco, N…
Tracking the fall movement of six shorebird species breeding near DoD sites in Alaska	Tracking	Greater Yellowleg…	Alaska;	2022				Rozy Bathrick, N…
Influence of wetland context on the distribution and abundance of boreal birds	Environmental Monitoring	Greater Yellowleg…	Alaska;	2017, 2018				Sabre Hill, Audre…
A pilot study to assess the use of geolocators to track movements of Lesser Yellowlegs	Tracking	Lesser Yellowlegs	Alaska; Anchorag…	2010, 2011			Lee Tibbitts; USG…	Richard Lanctot, …

https://rpubs.com/lmcduffie/ASG_data_inventory_table

Elections and Development Proposition Committee

- Natural resource management activities in 2023 *(Mary Anne Bishop)*
  - Should we *re-establish* the ASG Development Proposition Committee?

- We need to elect three (3) new members
  - At least one member should be non-government affiliated

Photo Contest Category winners: In the Field

Rozy Bathrick

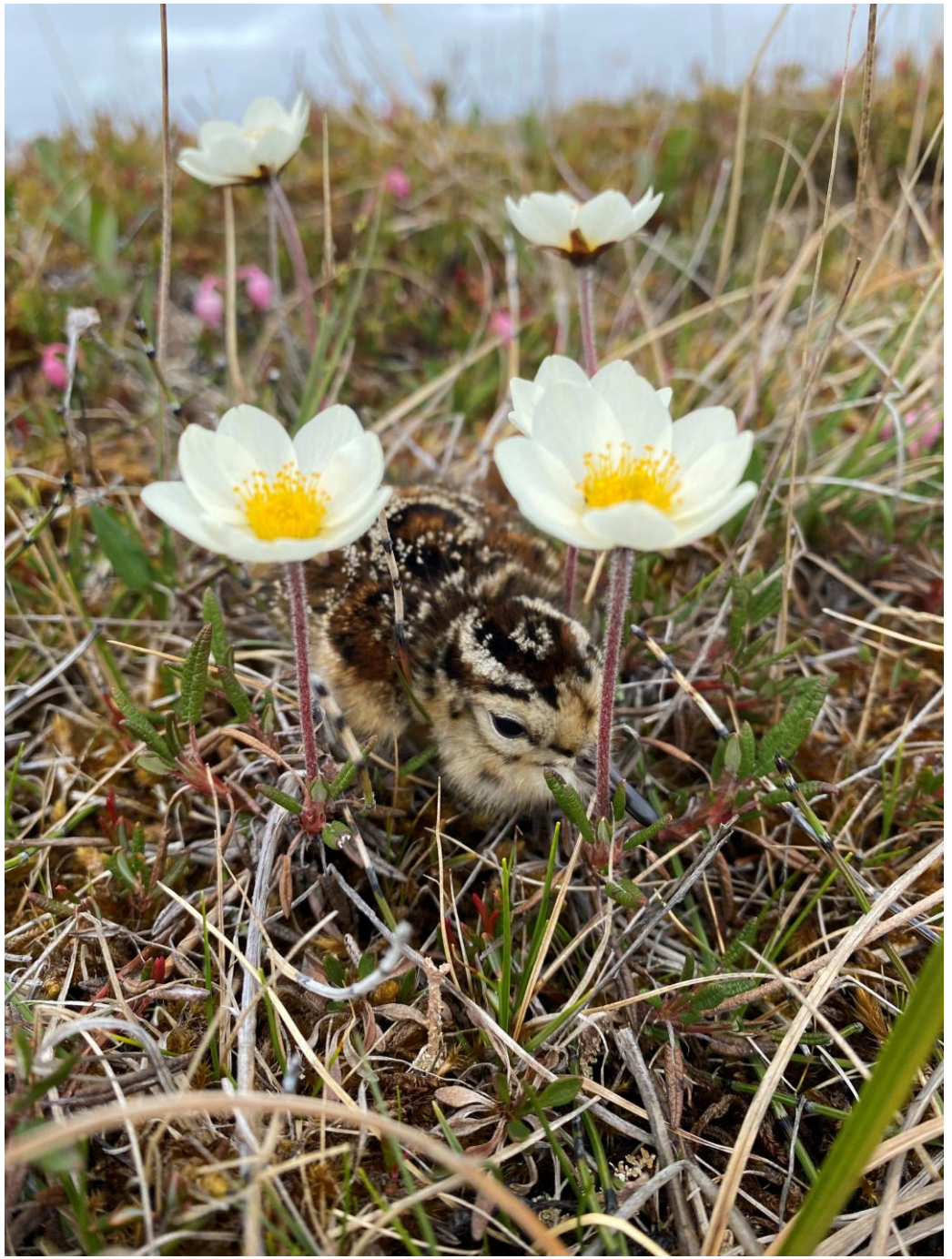

Blake Richard

Tie for most votes: Shorebird Tracking from DoD-owned sites across Alaska, **Rozy Bathrick**
Red Knot abundance, diet, and habitat use in Controller Bay, **Jenell Larsen Tempel**

Category Winner: Wildlife

Long-term shorebird monitoring in the Willow Project area, NPR-A, Alaska

Lauren B. Attanas



PESA chick with Dryas . Photo by A. Von Duyke

Lunch & Film

Flyways: the untold journey of migratory shorebirds

2023 · 1h 25m

IMDb RATING 7.9/10 11

YOUR RATING Rate

Documentary

Take a birds-eye-view journey into the world of the migratory shorebird. The world's greatest endurance athletes fly up to 9 days non-stop, and they need your help. Come along and hear the message from the birds

Director Randall Wood

Writers Alex Barry · Suzanne Smith · Randall Wood

Star Mia Wasikowska

IMDbPro See production info at IMDbPro

+ Add to Watchlist